

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. 1999-0515

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of providing summary information about recipients of multicast sessions, comprising the steps of:
 - enhancing the operation of an edge device to count the number of recipient hosts of an IP multicast session;
 - storing the count in a measurement device and supplementing the count with information supplied from a directory source;
 - generating aggregate information about audience levels and demographics of recipient hosts of the multicast session; and
 - supplying the information to a supplier of the multicast session permitting an immediate evaluation and response.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 - the step of enhancing the operation of an edge device includes a step of counting streams traversing a MUG type edge device using an unicast link between the edge device and the recipient hosts.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the step of enhancing the operation of an edge device includes a step of enhancing a protocol message to provide IP addresses of recipient hosts of the multicast session connected to the edge device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:
 - a step of reporting IGMP membership and leave group reports from a host recipient to an edge device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

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a step of aggregating information collected to insure privacy of individual host recipients.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of supplying information includes a step of billing the supplier for the information provided.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of supplementing the count includes a step of creating a directory-listing members of groups of multicast host recipients.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including a step of:
enhancing IGMP messages to include IP addresses of hosts that join and leave multicast sessions.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including a step of:
including IGMP software in an edge router and in a host PC to report IP addresses of host recipients as they join and leave multicast sessions.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including a step of:
including with an edge router an enhancement to provide IP addresses of host computers that join and leave multicast sessions.